

★ news release

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# SECRETARY UDALL ANNOUNCES 10-YEAR PROJECTION FOR UNITED STATES FISHING INDUSTRY

Secretary Udall noted that President Kennedy placed special emphasis on the importance of sea resources in his Conservation Message to Congress last year.

The President said:

"Our intensified effort to expand our knowledge and understanding of the vast resources held by the oceans through basic research and surveys of geologic and living resources will surely result in extending our known resource base, with encouraging prospects for improving our standard of living and adding protein-rich products to the diets of the hungry people of the world."

Trident is named for the three-pronged spear carried by the legendary Neptune. The plan's three-way assault on problems of the fishing industry calls for these major immediate actions:

1. Greater emphasis on the application of research to today's problems in the fishing industry.
2. Emphasis on research in marine engineering to improve methods of locating and capturing schools of fish.
3. A program to help equalize the competitive position of United States fishermen by offsetting the subsidies paid by some foreign governments to their fishing industries.
4. Vigorous support of pending legislation which would lessen the cost to the industry of building new, modern fishing vessels.
5. Greater emphasis on international agreements to settle disputes among fishing nations, and to manage fisheries of international importance.
6. Increased efforts to develop and expand foreign markets for United States fishery products.
7. Promotional campaigns to increase the consumption of fishery products at home.
8. Quicker application of research findings to increase production and make processing more efficient.
9. Greater industry-government cooperation in continued quality control and development of standards for fishery products.
10. Accelerated programs with universities and research institutions to train more scientists in biological and physical oceanography.
11. Aggressive safety programs to reduce high insurance costs that apply to commercial fishing vessels.

Secretary Udall said the long-range measures proposed in Trident will seek to fill many gaps in knowledge about the resources of the sea and their environment.

He called attention to a recommendation by the National Academy of Sciences that Government support of oceanographic basic research be doubled during the next 10 years.

NSA said the research is needed to solve a number of urgent problems involving ocean resources.

"Insufficient knowledge hampers the conservation of ocean resources," Secretary Udall said, "and it handicaps the full use of what we can sensibly take from the sea.

"We must learn new methods of finding and catching fish. We must find more economical methods of handling, preserving and transporting the catch. And we must find ways to repair the injury man has done to some of the natural habitats of our important inshore fisheries."

Major elements of the "long haul" program are these:

1. Expanded basic research to learn more about the physical environment of sea life and the inter-relationships of the plants and animals that inhabit the oceans.
2. Better scientific management of fisheries to assure that maximum yields can be obtained without depleting the ocean's resources.
3. Research on a broad front to find out how man is damaging fisheries by pollution and public works--and finding ways to stop this damage.
4. Research to find ways of shortening the time and effort necessary to make a catch and to bring the fish to port. This requires more study of fishery resources and development of better fish-catching gear.
5. Research to develop new fishery products the consumer will want--and development of processes to make and package these products.
6. Research to find better preservation techniques, such as freeze-drying and irradiation pasteurization.
7. Creating an awareness that sea resources are vital to the world's mushrooming population. The number of people will double to 6 billion in only forty years. The United States will not be able to escape the greatly increased demand for food.

Secretary Udall said Trident will be a flexible plan, one that will be reviewed frequently. It will be revised as necessary to meet new conditions and to put new knowledge to work.

Single copies of the published report are available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 20240.

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